

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An image processing apparatus for correcting data of each pixel in an edge area, comprising:

a first judgment unit for judging whether a target pixel is in a first edge area;

a second judgment unit for judging whether the target pixel is in a second edge area having a lower intensity variation level than the first edge area;

a first correction unit for conducting first correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the first judgment unit to be in the first edge area; and

a second correction unit for conducting second correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the second judgment unit to be in the second edge area.

2. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the data of each pixel includes a plurality of color component data,

the first correction unit conducts correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data differently from the other color component data, and

the second correction unit conducts correction processing on all of the color component data in a same manner.

3. (Original) The image processing apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the data includes chromatic color component data and achromatic color component data, and the second correction unit conducts correction processing only on the achromatic color component data.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the data is a density value, and the first correction processing includes processing to increase or decrease the density value.

5. (Original) The image processing apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first judgment unit and the second judgment unit shares a differential filter, the differential filter outputting intensity variations among pixels surrounding the target pixel, the first judgment unit judges whether the target pixel is in the first edge area by comparing an output from the differential filter with a first reference value, and the second judgment unit judges whether the target pixel is in the second edge area by comparing the output from the differential filter with a second reference value that is smaller than the first reference value.

6. (Original) The image processing apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first judgment unit further judges whether the target pixel is a chromatic color pixel or a achromatic color pixel, and

the first correction unit conducts different processing depending on whether the target pixel is a chromatic color pixel or an achromatic color pixel.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a first judgment unit for judging whether a target pixel is in a first edge area;  
a second judgment unit for judging whether the target pixel is in a second edge area having a lower intensity variation level than the first edge area;  
a first correction unit for conducting first correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the first judgment unit to be in the first edge area;  
a second correction unit for conducting second correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the second judgment unit to be in the second edge area; and  
an image forming unit for forming an image based on the data corrected by the first correction unit and the second correction unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the data of each pixel includes a plurality of color component data,  
the first correction unit conducts correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data differently from the other color component data, and  
the second correction unit conducts correction processing on all of color component data in a same manner.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 7, wherein  
the data includes chromatic color component data and achromatic color  
component data, and  
the second correction unit conducts correction processing only on the  
achromatic color component data.

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 7, wherein  
the data is a density value, and  
the first correction processing includes processing to increase or decrease the  
density value.

11. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 7, wherein  
the first judgment unit and the second judgment unit shares a differential filter,  
the differential filter outputting intensity variations among pixels surrounding the  
target pixel,  
the first judgment unit judges whether the target pixel is in the first edge area  
by comparing an output from the differential filter with a first reference value, and  
the second judgment unit judges whether the target pixel is in the second  
edge area by comparing the output from the differential filter with a second reference  
value that is smaller than the first reference value.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 7, wherein  
the first judgment unit further judges whether the target pixel is a chromatic  
color pixel or a achromatic color pixel, and

the first correction unit conducts different processing depending on whether the target pixel is a chromatic color pixel or an achromatic color pixel.

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for correcting image data corresponding to an edge area, comprising steps of:

judging (a) whether a target pixel is in a first edge area, and (b) whether the target pixel is in a second edge area having a lower intensity variation level than the second first edge area; and

conducting (a) first correction processing on data of the target pixel that is judged to be in the first edge area, and (b) second correction processing on the target pixel that is judged to be in the second edge area.